

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Our nation was founded upon personal freedoms and the free enterprise system. It has been the backbone of the countries economic and technological growth.

I am sure you are aware just how much preserving the competitive spirit of all industries ensures the future of technology.

In the past, the National Association of Broadcasters tried to squelch the industry by opposing such things as the advent of FM radio as well as Television. Can you imagine where we would be today without either of these forms of media? And did they eliminate the need for AM radio in the process? I don't think so. In fact, AM radio simply re-invented itself and became THE place to go for talk radio.

I am a truck driver, as are many XM Radio subscribers. I travel from Coast-to-Coast and from border to border. For a long time, I listened to AM radio, or at least tried to listen to AM Radio. I would travel about 100 miles with a somewhat static-filled broadcast coming through my speakers. When I would lose one signal and try to find another, most (and I am talking 2/3 to 3/4 of the time) I would get a high-pitched whine coming across that was so annoying and deafening that I would end up turning the radio off.

As far as the Instant Traffic and Weather stations are concerned, the NAB should not feel it any more of a threat than the NOAA Weather stations available on many car radios today. This threat is minimal. I don't know anyone who would leave their XM radio tuned to the Traffic and Weather for more than 15 minutes before returning to the station they were listening to previously.

In fact, perhaps the NAB should take a hint from XM and provide its on Instant Traffic and Weather stations.

In my opinion, it all comes down to choice.

Instead of attacking its competition, and trying to squelch the competitive nature of our country, perhaps the NAB should focus more on trying to improve the quality of its own programming to entice and discourage XM listenership.

I feel trying to use the FCC and the US Government, in general, to make up for its shortcomings is bad business.

Sincerely,  
Walt Smith  
XM Radio subscriber, truck driver, voter.